



# Metropolitan King County Councilmember Larry Gossett

*Spring 2005*

I would like to update you on a few issues that I have been working on for your benefit as a resident of Martin Luther King County.

## **Affirmative Action**

I remain committed to ensuring equality for those who have been discriminated against historically due to race/ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexuality. Every year, due to federal funding requirements and the King County Code, the County must develop programs to ensure a safe, inclusive, and diversity friendly workplace as well as to reach EEO/AA and contracting goals. These have the aim of providing equal employment and contracting opportunities to our County's minority and disadvantaged people. I have sponsored legislation to further King County's equal employment opportunity goals each year I have been on the Council.

## **Community Resources**

Many organizations based in District 10 representing a wide range of constituents, services, and projects benefited greatly in King County's 2005 budget. Among those that received funding are the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), Asian Counseling and Referral Services, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Homer Harris and Flo Ware Parks, Communities Against Rape and Abuse, LELO's Family Wage Jobs and Relicensing Program, and the Pike Market Medical Clinic.

*continued next page*

## **Your County district is changing**

In the fall of 2004, the citizens of Martin Luther King County voted to reduce the County Council from 13 to 9 members (Initiative 18). This change becomes effective on January 1, 2006.

This vote means that you will be voting in a new County legislative district this fall (2005). About two thirds of you receiving this newsletter will be in the new District 2. The other one third of you will be living in either District 4 or 8. **It will be very important that you learn what legislative district you live in because District 10 will no longer exist in 2006.**

My residence will be in the new District 2. Currently, each County Council district has a population of 135,000 people. These new districts will each have approximately 195,000 people residing within the district borders. For instance, you will see from reviewing the map on the next

*continued next page*

## **Saving lives and money in our criminal justice system**

Over the last three years, I have served as the Chair of the King County Council's Law, Justice and Human Services Committee (2002-2003) or as the Chair of the Budget & Fiscal Management Committee (2004). In my position as Chair, I played a lead role in influencing the King County Council to reorder our criminal justice policy and spending priorities, to shift away from incarceration and move toward supporting prevention and intervention programs. These programs help keep the mentally-ill, low-level drug and alcohol offenders, and low-income, inner-city youth out of the King County Jail and the Youth Detention Center. I am happy to report that the strategies I orchestrated during these years have been a great success!

We have reduced the costs of the criminal justice agencies while ensuring that we protect the budgets of agencies that provide a safe community for all of King County residents. Since I began this era of criminal justice reform within the King County Council in 2002, the average daily

**Tell me  
your concerns.  
Survey  
inside!**

*continued on last page*

## Gossett Ordinance

These reforms have significantly upgraded the operations of our personnel management system for our 13,000 employees

## Critical Areas Ordinance

I supported the passage of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) adopted last fall. The CAO put into place regulations that ensure responsible development and protect critical resources such as wetlands, streams, and wildlife in unincorporated King County. The passage of this ordinance last year was extremely controversial. As a result, some residents of our rural areas have started a movement to secede from King County. But I genuinely believe that the environmental protections brought about through passage of the CAO will be beneficial to the overwhelming majority of the residents of this county for decades to come.

Jarvis Grossett

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page, that the new District 2's northern border extends to 75th St. NE and runs south to include Montlake, Capital Hill, the Central District, Beacon Hill, Mt. Baker, Rainier Valley and ends in Skyway. (Please see smaller map below for current (District 10) boundaries.)

# 2006



# 2005

# What are your concerns & needs?

As your representative on the Metropolitan King County Council, I wish to hear your concerns and suggestions. I would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to complete and mail this brief survey. No postage is required. You can also fill out this survey online at [www.metrokc.gov/gossett](http://www.metrokc.gov/gossett).

**1.** King County is responsible for funding and providing major services to the County's urban, suburban, and the rural areas. For example, King County operates the Metro bus system, treats the region's wastewater, manages both adult and youth jails, and operates the Health Department, to name a few. All of these services are required government responsibilities.

Please rate the following sample of services King County provides in order of their importance to you (1 being most important, 2 the next most important, and so on).

\_\_\_\_\_ Criminal justice (Sheriff, courts, jail)

\_\_\_\_\_ Public health

\_\_\_\_\_ Wastewater treatment

\_\_\_\_\_ Metro Bus transportation

\_\_\_\_\_ Other service(s) (Please state below)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Please indicate the main problem(s) facing people who live in your neighborhood?

\_\_\_\_\_ Unemployment

\_\_\_\_\_ Crime

\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of activities for youth

\_\_\_\_\_ Inadequate public transportation

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please state below)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Washington State government has officially passed legislation renaming our county in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (see photo this page). Given this change, do you support changing the King County logo from the imperial crown (as on the facing page, bottom left) to a profile or likeness of Dr. King?

\_\_\_\_\_ Keep the crown symbol as the County logo

\_\_\_\_\_ Change the crown to a likeness of Dr. King

**4.** Other concerns or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you wish to receive a copy of the survey results, please provide the following information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (including ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing and mailing this survey!** To mail, please cut this page at the central fold.

Then fold into thirds, so that the Business Reply Mail panel (on the other side) is visible on top, and drop in the mail.

No postage is required.



*On April 19th, 2005, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law legislation formally renaming our county after Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The ceremony was held in the King County Courthouse. Photo shows (from left) State Senator Adam Kline, State Representative Eric Pettigrew, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett (at podium), King County Executive Ron Sims, and Governor Christine Gregoire.*



## Councilmember Larry Gossett

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### Important community news

- Changes to your county district
- Improvements to the criminal justice system
- Survey of your needs and concerns



### criminal justice system *continued from cover*

population of adult offenders has fallen dramatically—from almost 2,900 per day to just over 2,300 in April of 2005, a reduction of 24%. In 2000, we commissioned the help of a consultant, and the analysis estimated that by 2004, there would be 3,600 inmates in the King County jail. Had these projections become a reality, King County would now be constructing a new jail facility costing our government millions of dollars. Even greater reductions have been achieved in the County youth detention center, which was housing more than 200 youth daily in 2002. Today, we are detaining an average of 100 youth daily, a drop of 50%. Because of these declines, the County has controlled costs and avoided building expensive new facilities.

Over the past few years, we have moved away from just being “tough on crime,” and moved toward a position of being “smart on crime.” We have done this by spending more money on providing effective treatment for our mentally ill and drug addicted inmates and by funding more day treatment programs for low-level youth and adult offenders. We have created a win-win situation for our community. Crime is decreasing, offenders are living healthier, crime free lives, and we are significantly reducing the cost of operating our jails.

#### **Please participate in our survey!**

You can fill it out online at [www.metrokc.gov/gossett](http://www.metrokc.gov/gossett) or complete the form on reverse. Please cut page and fold into thirds, so that the Business Reply Mail panel below is visible on top, and mail. No postage is required. Thank you!



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